

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0873

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS

SUBJ: PERES VIEWS ON GENEVA CONFERENCE

REF: (A) STATE 26058; (B) TEL AVIV 665

1. WE THINK THAT ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF RECONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE WHICH PROBABLY WEIGHS MOST HEAVILY WITH PERES IS THAT IT WOULD GAIN TIME FOR ISRAEL, STALLING OFF PRESSURES TO MAKE WHAT HE VIEWS AS CRITICAL CONCESSIONS WITHOUT ADEQUATE RECOMPENSE. HOWEVER, AS NOTED IN DEPARTMENT'S SUMMARY OF DIFFERENT SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT RE RECONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE, THE ARGUMENTS THAT HAVE EMERGED IN RECENT WEEKS ARE NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE. WE BELIEVE THAT MOST OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN ADVOCATING MOVEMENT TOWARDS GENEVA, OR SPECULATING ABOUT ITS PROS AND CONS, ARE INFLUENCED BY MORE THAN ONE ARGUMENT. THIS ALSO APPLIES TO PERES. THUS, IF PERES THINKS OF THE ADVANTAGES OF GENEVA PRIMARILY AS A STALLING DEVICE (ARGUMENT A), HE ALSO THINKS IN TERMS OF NEED TO WARN US, AND ARABS, NOT TO USE GENEVA AS THREAT (ARGUMENT B). IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH US SENATORS, WHERE EMBOFFS HAVE BEEN PRESENT, HE HAS ALSO USED ELEMENTS OF BOTH ARGUMENTS D AND E, I.E. FORCE MOSCOW TO GET OFF THE DIME AND WITHHOLDING SUBSTANTIAL SINAI CONCESSION FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE TO AVOID GOLAN LINKAGE TO A POSSIBLE SECOND STAGE AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT.

2. AS TO ARGUMENT C--USE OF GENEVA TO EXPOSE TRUE ARAB ATTITUDES TOWARDS ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST AND PROBING FOR CHANGES
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IN ARAB ATTITUDES--WE THINK PERES WOULD SEE MERIT IN FIRST

POINT, THOUGH HIS STRONG OPINION THAT ARABS ARE FUNDAMENTALLY AND UNALTERABLY OPPOSED TO ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE IS PRECISELY ONE OF PRINCIPAL FACTORS THAT HAS LED HIM TO TAKE HARD-LINE POSITIONS AGAINST NEGOTIATIONS IN PAST. IN BRIEF, WE BELIEVE PERES IS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN STALLING TACTICS.

3. WE SHOULD ALSO NOTE THAT EMBASSY OFFICERS PRESENT IN RECENT MEETINGS BETWEEN PERES AND VISITING US SENATORS HAVE HEARD HIM PRAISE HUSSEIN EFFUSIVELY AND EXPRESS HOPE THAT WEST BANK ISSUES CAN ONE DAY BE NEGOTIATED WITH HIM. WE SEE NO EVIDENCE, HOWEVER, THAT PERES' REAL THINKING ON CONTENT OF ANY SUCH NEGOTIATIONS HAS PROGRESSED BEYOND HIS PREVIOUS POSITIONS WHICH ADD UP TO ISRAELI-JORDANIAN CONDOMINIUM, WHILE TAKING VERY NEGATIVE POSITION ON TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS. OF COURSE, EVEN IN BETTER CIRCUMSTANCES THIS POSITION WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO HUSSEIN.

4. FINALLY, WE WOULD NOTE THAT WE HAVE TRIED TO ASSURE SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE OF PERES TO OUR RECENT AND FUTURE CONGRESSIONAL VISITORS. MANY OF THEM ARE CARRYING A MESSAGE RE US URGENT DESIRE FOR CONTINUED EARLY MOVEMENT RE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH COULD HAVE SOME BENEFICIAL IMPACT ON HIS VIEWS.
VELIOTES

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